ISB develops one-stop open data portal

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Aimed at collating government data, scattered across multiple sources for consumption of policymakers, researchers, students and journalists, the Indian School of Business (ISB) has developed a one-stop open data portal, focusing on information related to agriculture.

“In the age where the credibility of information is being questioned and scrutinised, often with good reason, a platform with credible data can be a game changer. India Data Portal (IDP) incubated at ISB’s Bharti Institute of Public Policy is a platform that has data from multiple disciplines, subjects and areas. In the first phase, the focus is on agriculture data, and in later phases the portal will diversify to include datasets on financial inclusion, rural development etc.,” Dr. Aarushi Jain, Associate Director, Bharti Institute of Public Policy, told The Hindu.

‘Scribes as ambassadors’

Pointing out that IDP aims to integrate journalists as it’s ambassadors and fellows, Dr. Jain said the major challenge faced by journalists in India is accessing and collating government data scattered across multiple sources for analysis and generating data-driven stories.

“Mostly, data is available at different locations generally in inaccessible formats, which then requires extra effort in converting them into a format which can be analysed. In other cases, even if the data is easily available, comparing it across geographies becomes a considerable challenge. These issues of unavailability of organised and linked data and inadequate platforms for rapid visualisations are addressed by the IDP,” she said.